

February 12, 2018

Dear SSR2 Review Team Members:

The SO/AC Chairs' top priority as 2018 gets underway is to provide you with an update on our efforts to develop a process for getting the SSR2-RT restarted. We greatly appreciate the feedback we've received from you both on the survey and that you have provided through your respective chartering organizations on your intentions to stay on the SSR2-RT or to withdraw at this logical transition point. For those of you leaving, we thank you very much for your service to the SSR2-RT and the ICANN community in general.

We have near-daily exchanges to discuss SSR2-RT's current status, as this issue remains our top concern starting off 2018. Please do not assume that silence from us reflects any lack of concern or activity. Rather, we are very focused on identifying the issues from a diverse set of perspectives and are endeavoring to work through these to help you succeed as best as possible. This is all uncharted territory and not provided for in the ICANN Bylaws or existing Operating Standards so we appreciate your bearing with us through this process as this is a first important test of our new ICANN self-governance paradigm.

Here is where things stand currently from our perspective:

1. We have received notifications from some current members of their intent to leave the RT at this juncture. As already stated, to those of you leaving the team, we thank you for your service and hope to see you continue to serve on future important ICANN work!
2. As provided for in the ICANN Bylaws regarding member appointments to Specific Review Teams, we have been working on recruiting new volunteers to join your group from the various sponsoring SO/ACs, and have several volunteers to consider already. As the different SO/ACs have different processes to go through, we don't have a full list of potential new members yet, but some well-qualified and enthusiastic volunteers have already been put forward. We expect that the addition of new qualified members will help the SSR2-RT come to a full complement and be well-positioned to resume its important work.
3. Once the SSR2-RT has new members in place, we feel it would be an appropriate time for the SSR2-RT to provide an introspective review of the work to date to the new members and discuss process, leadership, goals, scope, and other fundamentals for a successful review team going forward.
4. The survey data indicates that there is insufficient alignment within the SSR2-RT on many issues ranging from mission/scope to process/leadership. A critical task to be accomplished immediately following restart is for the team to reconcile and address these differences and create a common path forward.

5. While we recognize that any Review Team determines their own procedures, one of our goals is to provide guidance and recommendations from the SO/ACs to ensure you are delivering a report that helps fully inform future decisions and debate. So we are more than happy to put together some better guidance on expectations/goals/boundaries/etc. based on the community's desires and provide that to you in order to guide deliberations and actions for the SSR2 team going forward. If there are any areas of clarification you see as important to the success of the SSR2 effort that was not covered by the survey or other communications, please feel free to provide us with that feedback via your SO/AC leader.
  
6. The SO/AC leaders are committed to cooperating to support the SSR2-RT in re-starting its work. We are working hard to ensure that the membership appointment processes are followed, as prescribed by the ICANN Bylaws. We will follow up in short order with another communication providing more detail around timelines and expectations.

Again, thank you for your efforts and patience as we work through this process to help get the SSR2 process running again.

SO/AC Chairs